Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 MCE-00 AID-05 IGA-02 OMB-01 EB-08 TRSE-00 /064 W ------126551 071355Z /53

R 071001Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8935

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

USINT BAGHDAD POUCH

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

CONFIDENTIAL KUWAIT 5053

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: MASS, KU

SUBJECT: EMBASSY COMMENTS ON POLICY GUIDELINES AGAINST PROMOTION OF

ARMS SALES

REF: STATE 207984

1. FOLLOWING FOR DEPARTMENT'S CONSIDERATION ARE CERTAIN OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE GUIDELINES FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ARMS TRANSFER POLICY AGAINST PROMOTION OF ARMS SALES (REFTEL).

A. KUWAITI DEFENSE MINISTRY AUTHORITIES HAVE REPEATEDLY TOLD US THAT THEY WILL RECEIVE US ARMS SALESMEN ONLY AFTER PRO FORMA REQUESTS FOR APPOINTMENTS BY THE EMBASSY. REFTEL PARA. 6A INSTRUCTS EMBASSY TO REFRAIN FROM REQUESTING SUCH APPOINTMENTS. WE RECOMMEND THAT DEPARTMENT INFORM ANY ARMS SALESMEN HEADED FOR KUWAIT OF THIS SITUATION. CONFIDENTIAL

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(FYI: REPRESENTATIVES OF US FIRMS ALREADY DOING BUSINESS WITH DEFENSE MINISTRY, SUCH AS RAYTHEON, EMERSON, ITT, AND DOUGLAS, HAVE AN ADVANTAGE HERE BECAUSE THEY ALREADY HAVE ESTABLISHED CONTACTS WITH MINISTRY ELEMENTS WHCIH THEY CAN EXPLOIT FOR NEW BUSINESS WITHOUT FURTHER CONTACT WITH EMBASSY. THE POLICY GUIDELINE AGAINST EMBASSY ASSISTANCE ON APPOINTMENTS WOULD SEEM TO DENY

OTHER FIRMS THE POSSIBLITY OF ESTABLISHING SUCH ACCESS AND, THUS, IN EFFECT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST THEM, THOUGH ON OCCASION THE KUWAITIS VIOLATE THEIR OWN RULES AND RECEIVE US COMPANY REPRESENTATIVES WITH THE PARTICIPATION OR EVEN KNOWLEDGE OF THE EMBASSY. END FYI).

B. WE RECOMMEND THAT PARA 6 OF REFTEL BE DECLASSIFIED SO THAT IT CAN BE HANDED OUT TO US ARMS COMPANY REPRESENTATIVES AND TO ANY KUWAITI OFFICIALS WHO INQUIRE. THIS MARKED CHANGE IN THE PROCEDURES FOR CONTACTS WITH US FIRMS WILL REQUIRE CONSIDERABLE "RE-EDUCATION" OF ARMS SALESMEN, TO SAY NOTHING OF KUWAITI OFFICIALS WHO FOR SOME TIME TO COME MAY SIMPLY NOT BELIEVE THAT EMBASSY KUWAIT HAS BEEN ORDERED OUT OF SALES PROMOTION ACTIVITIES. EMBASSY EXPLANATION OF ITS REFUSAL TO UNDERTAKE SUCH ACTIVITIES, ACTING ON INSTRUCTION CONTAINED REFTEL, WILL BE FAR MORE CLEAR IF THEY COULD BE MADE IN WRITING RATHER THAN BY ORAL REFERENCES TO REFTEL.

2. REQUEST DEPARTMENT DEFINE "SIGNIFICANT ARMS SALES," AS USED IN PARA. 6A OF REFTEL.
MAESTRONE

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